

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R 1.116
Serial No. 10/621,589

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 7, 8 and 12-14 are allowed and that claim 2 recites allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-14 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and its subject matter incorporated into claim 2. Claims 1, 3-6, and 9-11 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 7 are independent claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten into an independent format including all the recitations of now canceled claim 1, and the dependencies of claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 have been changed to depend from claim 2, which renders all of these claims allowable at least for dependency from claim 2.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Hidenori *et al.* (J.P. Pub. 11-087815) ("Hidenori") in view of Shimomura *et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2003/0048507) ("Shimomura"). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hidenori in view of Shimomura and further in view of Zhang *et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2003/0179998) ("Zhang"). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hidenori in view of Kyong-Hon Kim *et al.* (J.P. Publication JP08162697) ("Kim") and further in view of Inada *et al.* (U.S. 6,920,261) ("Inada") and in further view of Tomaru *et al.* (U.S. Pub. 2003/0210730) ("Tomaru"). For at least the reasons discussed above, all of the aforementioned rejections are moot.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable. A Notice of Allowance for claims 2-14 is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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